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Communiqué of the Trade and Development Board

Summary of the agreed conclusions

1. In the second part of its thirty-ninth session, the Board discussed trade policy reform in developing countries, developments in the Uruguay Round, human resource development for trade, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, UNCTAD's activities pertaining to sustainable development, structural adjustment for the transition to disarmament and the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency scheduled for autumn 1994.

2. The Board recognized that trade liberalization was an important tool for increasing economic efficiency and improving resource allocation and growth in all countries. There was a consensus that the international community should support these efforts in developing countries, particularly the least developed, especially through adequate improved market access and increased flows of financial resources and debt relief.

3. The Board decided to transmit a message to the Governments participating in the Uruguay Round negotiations recalling that there should be an early, balanced and successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round as a prerequisite to a return to the path of growth, trade expansion and an improved world economic climate.

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4. The Board agreed that the objectives stated in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s could be fully realized through a strong and committed partnership between the LDCs and their development partners. The Board emphasized the need for the formulation of medium- to long-term strategies for socio-economic development, for which sustainable good governance was considered necessary. The DAC donors were urged to fulfil aid targets and commitments to the LDCs. The efforts made by the LDCs in respect of reform measures were appreciated.

5. The Board affirmed that there were compelling reasons for Africa to continue to pursue co-operation and integration as a central element of development. The Board stressed the importance of strengthening regional infrastructures, transit facilities, transport and communications, support for structural adjustment programmes, harmonization of policies, the private sector and human resources development. The international community was urged to increase its financial support for integration projects at the subregional and regional levels.

6. The Board decided on areas of future activities for UNCTAD in the field of sustainable development and agreed that the theme of trade and environment should feature on the agenda of its future sessions. Other substantive areas of follow-up to Agenda 21 by the Board and its subsidiary bodies would include aspects of Agenda 21 relating to commodities, technology, services, poverty and privatization.

7. The Board agreed that more assertive action in the area of human resources development for trade, through combined efforts by Governments, the business community and training institutions, would pay dividends in terms of technological development, international competitiveness and other determinants of trade performance, and called for enhanced international cooperation in this area.

8. The Board decided that, at the first part of its fortieth session, it would establish terms of reference for an Ad Hoc Working Group to explore the issue of structural adjustment for the transition to disarmament. To this end, the President of the Board was requested to conduct informal consultations in mid-June on the draft terms of reference.

9. The Board welcomed and endorsed the generous offer of the United States of America to host the United Nations Symposium on Trade Efficiency in Columbus, Ohio, in 1994.